



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021

No. 45

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 10, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, as these lawmakers take their sides on this factional bill before them, we pray Your mercy.

Forgive them—all of them—for when called upon to respond to a once-in-a-century pandemic that has rocked our country, upended its economy, and widened the chasm of partisan opinion, they have missed the opportunity to step above the fray and unite to attend to this national crisis.

In failing to address the acrimony and divisions which have prevailed in this room, the servants You have called to lead this country have contributed to the spread of an even more insidious contagion of bitterness and spite.

Rather than employing the preventive measures of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, this armor has been set aside in favor of argument, disparaging words, and divisiveness.

You have warned us that a house divided against itself cannot stand. And now we stand in need of healing and reconciliation.

Merciful Lord, rebuild this house that their labor will not be in vain.

We offer ourselves and our prayers to You in the strength of Your name.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5(a)(1)(A) of House Resolution 8, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. VARGAS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

REMEMBERING DR. WILLIE BLAIR

(Mr. VARGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Congresswoman SARA JACOBS, to honor San Diego leader Dr. Willie Blair.

As a San Diego community leader, Dr. Blair left a legacy for those demanding social justice and equity. He served his country as a Vietnam combat veteran; a former congressional staffer; and locally as a leader of Black American Political Association of California-San Diego chapter, or BAPAC.

From 2008 to 2017, Dr. Blair served as board chairman for BAPAC, an organization that strives to ensure the Black community in San Diego County remains a relevant economic, social force in southern California.

In 2017, he was elected as BAPAC's president, where he continued his work in civil and human rights and used his stature to promote quality leadership in the community.

Dr. Blair is survived by his daughter, U.S. Air Force officer Deborah Smith; his siblings Janet, Trece, and Roger; and several nieces.

We are very lucky to have a leader like Dr. Blair, who paved the way for future changemakers. All of us who knew Dr. Blair loved him and respected him dearly. We are saddened by his passing.

TAKING AWAY EMPLOYEE CHOICE

(Mr. HERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, last year, I stood right here and argued against the many concerns I have with the PRO Act. Thirteen months later, nothing has been done to address those concerns or earn bipartisan support.

The PRO Act is a dangerous example of power for union leaders without necessary protections for union members.

One of the biggest glaring failures of this legislation is taking away employee choice, effectively repeating right-to-work laws across the country, like in my home State of Oklahoma, where we choose to empower employees and employers alike. Where workers have previously had the freedom to choose whether or not to pay fees and join unions, they will now be forced to pay membership fees or lose their job.

American workers and American ingenuity made our country what it is

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H1193